

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15-21, 35, 40-44, 47-51 and 61-82 are currently pending in the application. Claims 72-75, 81 and 82 are rejected by Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a). Claims 61-64, 70-75, 81 and 82 are rejected by Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103(a). Claims 1, 15-21, 35, 40-44 and 47-51 are allowed. Claims 65-69 and 76-80 are objected to. Applicants have amended claims 61 and 72. Applicants have canceled claims 65 and 76.

Applicants appreciate Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in Claims 1, 15-21, 35, 40-44 and 47-51.

Amendments

Applicants have amended Claim 61 to recite the anion to comprise a mixture of at least two members selected from a group.

Applicants have canceled Claim 65.

Applicants have amended Claim 72 to recite the anion to comprise a mixture of at least two members selected from a group.

Applicants have canceled Claim 76.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a)

Examiner rejected Claims 72-75, 81 and 82 under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102(b) and 103(a). Applicants have amended Claims 61 and 72.

Examiner and applicant discussed these rejections in a telephone interview on May 4, 2004. It was agreed that the applicant would amend Claims 61 and 72, as described above.

As with Claims 15 and 35, which were previously amended, the prior art does not show an anion comprising a mixture of at least two members selected from the recited group.

Applicants have amended Claim 61 and 72 to recite the anion to comprise a mixture of at least two members selected from a group. Applicants have canceled Claims 65 and 76.

Applicants respectfully submit that the current amendments overcome the rejection of Claims 61 and 72. Applicants further respectfully submit that because Claims 62 to 71 depend from Claim 61, these claims are neither anticipated nor obvious. Similarly, Applicants further respectfully submit that because Claims 73 to 82 depend from Claim 72, these claims are neither anticipated nor obvious. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks have overcome or rendered moot all grounds for rejection or objection. There being no other rejections or objections, Applicants believe that the application is in a condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request prompt action on the claims and allowance of the application. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone Applicants' undersigned agent directly.

AUTHORIZATION

Applicants believe that no extension of time is required to make submission of this response timely. However, in the event that an extension of time is required, Applicants hereby submit a petition for such extension of time as may be necessary to make this response timely. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the necessary fees to deposit account No. 502194. A duplicate of this authorization is enclosed.

Respectfully Submitted,
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